

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable fibrous web comprising biodegradable polymer fibers, the web ~~substrate~~ having a durable hydrophilic surface comprising ~~coated substrate which comprises a biodegradable polymeric substrate which is~~ substantially uniformly coated with a hydrophilic polymeric material in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 2.0 percent by weight, based on the dry weight of the web ~~substrate~~; in which the hydrophilic polymeric material is a polysaccharide or a modified polysaccharide; wherein the ~~and the coating of~~ hydrophilic polymeric material will not significantly suppress the surface tension of an aqueous medium with which the web ~~substrate~~ may come in contact.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable fibrous web ~~substrate~~ of claim 18 ~~24~~, wherein the biodegradable polymer fibers comprise an aliphatic polyester ~~polymer~~.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable fibrous web ~~substrate~~ of claim 22 ~~48~~, wherein the aliphatic polyester comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyglycolic acid, polylactide polylactic acid, and copolymers thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable fibrous web ~~substrate~~ of claim 18, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.05 to about 1.0 percent by weight of the web ~~substrate~~, based on the dry weight of the web ~~substrate~~.

26. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable fibrous web substrate of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.1 to about 0.5 percent by weight of the web substrate, based on the dry weight of the web substrate.

27. (Currently Amended) An absorbent personal care product comprising the biodegradable fibrous web substrate of claim 18.

28. (Currently Amended) A biomedical device comprising the biodegradable fibrous web substrate of claim 18.

29. (Currently Amended) A food package comprising the biodegradable fibrous web substrate of claim 18.

30. (New) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the web is a nonwoven web.

31. (New) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 30, wherein the nonwoven web is a meltblown web, spunbond web, or a combination thereof.

32. (New) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the surface is substantially uniformly coated with the hydrophilic polymeric material.

33. (New) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material is a modified polysaccharide.

34. (New) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 33, wherein the modified polysaccharide is a cellulose derivative.

35. (New) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 34, wherein the cellulose derivative is hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, methyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, or a combination thereof.

36. (New) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 35, wherein the cellulose derivative is ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose.